

Appl. No.: 10/662,682
TC/A.U.: 3711 Examiner No.: C03-05
Reply to Office Action of April 17, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 57, 59-61, and 63-67, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Claim 60 has been amended to correct a typo error in the spelling of "crown".
Claim 58 and 85 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed.

No new matter has been added by these amendments and additions.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 58 and 85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter because of the recitation of a trademark. The claims have been cancelled making these rejections moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 57, 58, 61, 63-67, and 85, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beach et al. (USPN 6,623,378) in view of Galloway et al. (USPN 6,575,845 and Masahiko et al. (JP 2002-000772) and further in view of Molitor et al. (USPN 4,762,322).

As pertaining to claim 57, the key element of the present invention is that the front face gradually decreases in thickness from the sole to the crown. While Masahiko et al. discloses a front face that gradually decreases in thickness, his front face does not decrease from the sole portion to the crown portion, but only from an intermediate part (T2) to an upper end part (T1). Masahiko et al. is very specific in his Abstract that the front face is "kept constant substantially from the intermediate part T2 to a lower end part T3". Therefore there is no gradual tapering from his sole portion, only upwards from about the middle of the club face. The tapering of the entire face is not an obvious

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design concept as evident by the lack of such teachings in the prior art. This innovative concept is what produces the spin control test data seen in the specification of the present invention.

Claim 58 was cancelled by the Applicants, and claims 61, and 63-67 are dependent upon the allowance of the independent claim 57, since they further define the scope of the invention and are patentable on the totality of their content.

Masahiko et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Beach in view of Galloway and Molitor. There is no motivation to modify the references or any reasonable expectation of success in their combination. Additionally, neither references, alone or in combination, discloses the entire front face tapering, as now recited in 57 of the present invention.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is believed to have been overcome for at least the above reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 59 and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beach et al. (USPN 6,623,378) in view of Galloway et al. (USPN 6,575,845, in view of Masahiko et al. (JP 2002-000772), in view of Molitor et al. (USPN 4,762,322, and further in view of Kosmatka (USPN 6,478,692).

As stated above, dependent claims 59 and 60 are patentable only because they further define the scope of the independent claim 57

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is believed to have been overcome for at least the above reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion

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with the Applicants' agent would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the agent at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. However, should any required fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,



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508-979-3563

May 3, 2006
Date

Customer Number: 40990